IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the previous claims with the following claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for video on demand programs comprising:

a receiver to receive requests for video on demand programs;

a network manager, connected to said receiver, to process said program requests;

an authorization component, connected to said network manager, to transmit a first authorization code, in response to a request for a video on demand program, to ~~enable~~ authorize a set top terminal to tune to a specific preview channel and to enable delivery of a requested program; and

a file server, coupled to said network manager, capable of receiving said first authorization code and sending a second authorization code, wherein when the requested program is scrambled, the second authorization code enables descrambling said scrambled requested program.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said network manager comprises a processor, connected to an instruction memory, to process said program requests.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said processor comprises control software to compile, group or count said program requests.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network manger comprises a timer, wherein the network manager monitors program requests for a same program within a time period set by the time, and wherein set top terminals requesting the same program within the time period receive the requested same program.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said file server comprises process software to deliver or authorize to receive at least one requested program.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said requested program is stored in the file server in MPEG format.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said requests for video on demand programs are received from set top terminals.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said authorization component is connected to said network manager by an interface.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus for delivering video on demand programs to set top terminals comprising:

    (a) a receiver to receive requests for video on demand programs from the set top terminals;

    (b) a network manager, connected to said receiver, comprising:

a processor to process said program requests, wherein said processor includes an instruction memory and said processor comprises control software to compile, group or count said program requests;

    (c) an authorization component, connected to said network manager by an interface, to transmit a first authorization code, in response to a request for a video on demand program, to enable authorize the set top terminals to tune to a specific preview channel and to enable delivery of a requested program; and

    (d) a file server, connected to said network manager, capable of receiving said first authorization code and sending a second authorization code, wherein when the requested program is scrambled, the second authorization code enables descrambling said scrambled requested program.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus for video on demand programs comprising:

an authorization component to receive requests for video on demand programs;
an interface connected to said authorization component;

    a network manager, connected to said interface, to process said program requests; and

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a file server, connected to said authorization component, capable of receiving a first authorization code, generated in response to a request for a video on demand program, to ~~enable~~ authorize set top terminals to tune to a preview and to enable delivery of a requested program and sending a second authorization code, wherein when the requested program is scrambled, the second authorization code descrambles said scrambled requested program.

11.(original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said network manager comprises:
a processor, connected to an instruction memory, to process said program requests.

12.(original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said processor comprises control software to compile, group or count said program requests.

13.(original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said requests for video on demand programs are received from set top terminals.

14.(original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said file server comprises process software to deliver or authorize to receive at least one requested program.

15.(original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said file server comprises process software to deliver or authorize to receive at least one requested program.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said requested program is stored in the file server in MPEG format.

17. (currently amended) An apparatus for delivering video on demand programs to set top terminals comprising:
an authorization component to receive requests for video on demand programs from the set top terminals;
an interface connected to said authorization component;

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a network manager, connected to said interface, comprising:

a timer, wherein the network manager monitors program requests for a same program within a time period extending from an initial request for a video on demand program; and

a processor to process said program requests, wherein said processor includes an instruction memory, and said processor comprises control software to compile, group or count said program requests; and

a file server, connected to said authorization component, capable of receiving a first authorization code to enable delivery of a requested program and sending a second authorization code, wherein when the requested program is scrambled, the second authorization code enables descrambling said scrambled requested program.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said requested program is digital.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said requested program is stored in the file server in MPEG code.

20. (currently amended) A method for delivering video on demand programming comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a request for a video on demand program from a set top terminal;

b) processing at least one received request the processing further comprising:

counting a period of time extending from an initial request for a video on demand program,

receiving additional requests until said period of time expires, and

authorizing viewing or delivering of said requested program after said period of time expires;

c) sending a first authorization code to a file server to enable set top terminal to receive a requested program;

d) spooling said requested program from said file server;

e) authorizing viewing or delivering of said requested program; and

f) downloading a second authorization code when the requested program is

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PAGE 7/15 * RCVD AT 3/25/2005 11:32:28 AM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:732 530 9808 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-58

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scrambled, the second authorization code enables descrambling said scrambled requested program.

21-22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of authorizing further comprises authorizing viewing of previews.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:
        compiling, grouping or counting all said program requests.

25. (currently amended) A method for delivering video on demand programming comprising the steps of:
        a) receiving a request for a video on demand program from a set top terminal;
        b) processing at least one received request;
        c) sending a first authorization code to a file server, the first authorization code authorizing the set top terminal to receive a preview of the requested program;
        d) spooling said requested program from said file server;
        e) authorizing viewing or delivering of said requested program;
        f) counting a period of time;
        g) receiving additional requests until said period of time expires; and
        h) authorizing viewing or delivering of said requested program after said period of time expires.

26. (cancelled)

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